

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DOHA 00571 091130Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CU-02 /030 W
-----091357Z 093949 /53

R 090650Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2579
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0571

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, US, LE, QA
SUBJECT: AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT--FINANCING

REF: BEIRUT 2088

1. FOR WHATEVER IT IS WORTH, I ENDORSE AMBASSADOR PARKER'S
PREMISE THAT IT IS IN USG INTEREST TO MAINTAIN AND INCREASE
SUPPORT NECESSARY TO PRESERVE AUB AS A HIGH-QUALITY, US-STYLE
UNIVERSITY.

2. I CONCUR ALSO THAT USG SHOULD TAKE LEAD IN SUPPORTING
AUB FUND-RAISING EFFORTS IN GULF AREA, THAT WE SHOULD TAKE
TACK THAT SUCH AID IS SUPPLEMENTAL TO USG CONTRIBUTION, AND
THAT USG WILL CONTINUE TO CARRY MAJOR BURDEN OF AUB SUPPORT.

3. WE HAVE ALREADY ON INFORMAL BASIS ENCOURAGED APPROPRIATE GOQ
OFFICIALS TO RESPOND GENEROUSLY TO VARIOUS AUB FUND-RAISERS
WHO HAVE VISITED HERE. HOWEVER, PROSPECTS OF SIGNIFICANT ADDIT-
IONAL ASSISTANCE FROM GOQ NOT AUSPICIOUS IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE.
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OVER PAST WO YEARS GOQ HAS PUT UP \$1,100,000. IT IS PRESENTLY
EXPERIENCING CASH FLOW PROBLEMS OF ITS OWN, SO NO MAJOR AID
INCREMENT CAN REALISTICALLY BE EXPECTED IN NEAR TERM.

4. IN LONG RUN, AUB SERVICE CORP. IS BEST BET FOR FINANCIAL
RETURNS FROM QATAR TO UNIVERSITY. SERVICE CORP. REPS HAVE
BEEN ACTIVE HERE AND APPEAR TO HAVE NAILED DOWN MANAGEMENT

CONTRACT ON REORGANIZATION OF QATARI BUREAUCRACY. THERE ARE MANY OTHER POSSIBILITIES WHICH SERVICE CORP. APPEARS PREPARED TO PURSUE.

5. AUB'S BIGGEST ASSET IN QATAR IS ALUMNUS ISSA KAWARI, WHO IS MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND ALSO AMIR'S OFFICE DIRECTOR. KAWARI HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN LOOSENING QATARI PURSE STRINGS FOR AUB TO DATE. THERE ARE OTHER WELL-HEELED ALUMNI IN TOWN, AND FUND-RAISING EFFORTS COULD BE FOCUSED ON THEM TOO.

6. ARABIZATION OF AUB HAS BEEN RAISED BY QATARIS, AS WELL AS OTHERS. CHANGE OF UNIVERSITY'S NAME AND SELECTION OF ARAB PRESIDENT WOULD FACILITATE MORE ASSISTANCE, OR SO WE ARE TOLD. WE BELIEVE SOME COSMETIC ARABIZATION MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN THIS REGARD, AND EXPECT THAT PRESENT ADMINISTRATION AND FACULTY OF AUB ARE STRONG ENOUGH NOT TO ALLOW ANY SUCH COSMETIC CHANGES TO DEBASE QUALITY OF UNIVERSITY.
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